

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly Newscast

November 30th, 2013

Lessons prepared by Justine Light & Kim Chaba-Armstrong

Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News Story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Choose the definition that best matches each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. criticize	a) gave information about something
	2. reported	b) to keep someone or something safe from danger
	3. release	c) to say something negative about someone or something
	4. secrecy	d) where a child stays when a child is taken from his/her parents and the government is deciding who will take care of them
	5. protect	e) to allow some information to be shown to the public
	6. privacy	f) keep something secret
	7. foster care	g) a right to keep personal things secret

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

opposition party: the members of the political party that come second in an election

roundtable: when several people come together to discuss something as equals

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **True** or **False**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. _____ Opposition parties have criticized the government about the number of children injured in foster care.
2. _____ A newspaper report says 145 children died in foster care in the last 14 years.
3. _____ Some people think there should be more secrecy about foster care.
4. _____ The government says there has to be privacy for families.
5. _____ There will be a roundtable discussion about the children who died.

Discussion Questions

Does the public need to know about children in foster care? Why or why not? What are some of the benefits of more privacy? What are the benefits of less secrecy?

News Story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

accident	something bad that happens that is not expected
frequency	how often something happens
collision	when one moving object hits another
data	facts and statistics
least	the lowest amount

1. The _____ between the two cars made a very loud noise.
2. The _____ shows that thousands of people call the city's 411 line to get information about the city.
3. Since I started giving important quizzes at the start of class, I have seen an increase in the _____ with which my students come to class on time.
4. There was an _____ at the mall when a person fell on the escalator.
5. I am trying to spend the _____ possible amount of money on utilities this winter so I turn off every light when I leave a room.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences based on what you heard in the audio. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. An _____ says some of the _____ drivers in Canada are from Edmonton and Calgary.	a) insurance company/ worst b) government report/ best
2. _____ was #41st out of _____ communities for the most car accidents.	a) Red Deer/ 55 b) Calgary / 50
3. Edmonton drivers were _____, placing _____ out of 50.	a) better/ 40th. b) worse / 44th.
4. Overall accidents in Alberta are _____ by _____ %.	a) up/ 74% b) down / 7.4
5. The place with the _____ collisions was _____.	a) least / Medicine Hat b)most/ Fort MacMurray

Discussion Questions

Do you agree that drivers in Alberta are bad? What could be the reason for that?

News Story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Word	Definition
describing	saying or writing what someone or thing is like
smartphone	a mobile phone that is able to do many of the things a computer can do, such as take photographs
research	a study of something which tests something or looks into something very carefully
usage	the amount of use of something i.e. water, data on a cell phone, gas
incredible	impossible to believe
famous	known by many people
posing	stand or sit in a particular position for a photograph

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

go/went viral: when something on the internet becomes very popular very quickly

1. My daughter needs to reduce the _____ of her cell phone, as her bills are much too high.
2. When I get a new phone contract, I am going to get a _____, so I can take photos and send email.
3. The view from out hotel room was _____; we could see the ocean and the beach.
4. There has been a lot of _____ that shows that smoking is very bad for your health.
5. I want to have my photograph taken with a _____ person so I can put it on Twitter.
6. We took some fun pictures at our party with everyone _____ in silly ways.
7. She did a very good job of _____ her family before I met them. They looked exactly how I had thought they would.

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences based on what you heard in the audio. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. 'Selfie' is the _____ to describe a photo taken of _____.	a) word/ yourself b) dictionary/ famous people
2. The _____ says 'selfie' is the word of the _____.	a) American Dictionary/ decade b) Oxford Dictionary / year
3. Usage of the word has _____ by _____. %.	a) decreased/ 70,000. b) increased / 17,000.
4. The Pope was part of a very _____ selfie which was shared on _____.	a) famous/ Twitter b) important / the news

Discussion Questions

Have you ever used your phone to take a selfie? Why do you think people enjoy taking selfies so much?

Language Focus – Pronunciation of the Simple Past

A few weeks ago we looked at the simple past (November 8) and its use in the weekly news stories.

The pronunciation of the regular form of the simple past –ed, varies depending on the sound that comes right before it. The table below shows the three different pronunciations of –ed:

If the word ends in these bolded sounds, the –ed will make a /t/ sound	If the word ends in these bolded sounds, the –ed will make a /d/ sound	If the word ends in these bolded sounds, the –ed will make an /ɪd/ sound
<u>helped</u> (sounds like helpt) <u>kissed</u> <u>clicked</u> <u>miffed</u> <u>washed</u> <u>watched</u>	<u>planned</u> (sounds like pland) <u>followed</u> <u>saved</u> <u>pleased</u> <u>banged</u>	<u>seated</u> (sounds like seatid) <u>stranded</u>

Look at the stems that have the past form from the three news stories. Try to place the words in the correct category on the chart. Use the examples to help you. *Answers are in the appendix.*

News Story 1

- ...children **died** in care over the past...
- ...the government only **reported** 56 deaths.

News Story 2

- Allstate Insurance **looked** at...

News Story 3

- ...word **used** to describe...
- ...selfie has **increased**...
- ...it was **shared**...

Then listen again to the news stories – can you hear the difference?

Transcripts of Weekly News Stories

	NOVEMBER 29TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Rosa Marchitelli. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for November 29th.	0:00
Story 1	Alberta's opposition parties continue to criticize the provincial government about the number of children dying while they are in foster care. A report by the Edmonton Journal and Calgary Herald says 145 Alberta children died in care over the past fourteen years while the government only reported 56 deaths. Some people say there is too much secrecy about the deaths and the government needs to release more information about what really happens in the child welfare system. The government says the rules are there to protect the privacy of children and families. Human Services Minister Dave Hancock says he wants a round table to talk about how much the public should know about what happens in the system.	0:09
Story 2	One insurance company says drivers in Calgary and Edmonton are some of the worst in the country when it comes to the number of car accidents. Allstate Insurance looked at the number of accidents in 50 cities across the country. Calgary was #41 out of the 50 communities in the frequency of car collisions. Edmonton drivers were even worse - in 44th place. But Allstate insurance says its data shows driving IS improving. The company says collisions across Alberta are actually down by 7.4 per cent. And the place with the least collisions in the country? That's Medicine Hat.	01:22
Story 3	SELFIE, the popular word used to describe a picture taken of yourself, usually with a smartphone, is the word of the year says the Oxford Dictionary. Research from the famous dictionary says usage of the word 'selfie' has increased by an incredible 17,000 % in the past year. One of the most famous selfies was taken by Pope Francis posing with teenagers at the Vatican earlier this year. The picture went viral as it was shared many times on Twitter.	02:23

Appendix Answer Keys:

News Story 1 – Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
c	1. criticize	a) gave information about something
a	2. reported	b) to keep someone or something safe from danger
e	3. release	c) to say something negative about someone or something
f	4. secrecy	d) where a child stays when a child is taken from his/her parents and the government is deciding who will take care of them
b	5. protect	e) to allow some information to be shown to the public
g	6. privacy	f) keep something secret
d	7. foster care	g) a right to keep personal things secret

Listening

1. FOpposition parties have criticized the government about the number of children injured in foster care.
2. TA newspaper report says 145 children died in foster care in the last 14 years.
3. FSome people think there should be more secrecy about foster care.
4. TThe government says there has to be privacy for families.
5. FThere will be a roundtable discussion about the children who died.

News Story 2

Vocabulary

1. The collision between the two cars made a very loud noise.
2. The data shows that thousands of people call the city's 411 line to get information about the city.
3. Since I started giving important quizzes at the start of class, I have seen an increase in the frequency with which my students come to class on time.
4. There was an accident at the mall when a person fell on the escalator.
5. I am trying to spend the least possible amount of money on utilities this winter so I turn off every light when I leave a room.

Listening

1. An _____ says some of the _____ drivers in Canada are from Edmonton and Calgary.	a) insurance company/ worst b) government report/ best
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News Story #3

Vocabulary

1. My daughter needs to reduce the **usage** of her cell phone, as her bills are much too high.
2. When I get a new phone contract, I am going to get a **smartphone**, so I can take photos and send email.
3. The view from out hotel room was **incredible**; we could see the ocean and the beach.
4. There has been a lot of **research** that shows that smoking is very bad for your health.
5. I want to have my photograph taken with a **famous** person so I can put it on Twitter.
6. We took some fun pictures at our party with everyone **posing** in silly ways.
7. She did a very good job of **describing** her family before I met them. They looked exactly how I had thought they would.

Listening

1. 'Selfie' is the _____ to describe a photo taken of _____.	a) word/ yourself b) dictionary/ famous people
2. The _____ says 'selfie' is the word of the _____.	a) American Dictionary/ decade b) Oxford Dictionary / year
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Language Focus

/t/ sound	/d/ sound	/ɪd/ sound
increased looked	died used shared	reported